



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – Dix Building

55 Wade Avenue – Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Brian M. Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

From: Brian Hepburn, M.D.
Executive Director
Mental Hygiene Administration

To: PMHS Service Providers

Date: September 14, 2009

Subject: CARC Transition

As a result of the ongoing consolidation of Public Mental Health System (PMHS) facilities, the Department has made the decision to close the Centralized Admission Referral Center (CARC). While CARC is closing, this does not yet effect the hospital diversion programs in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, and Montgomery County who will continue to work with the designated Emergency Departments.

In addition, please be aware of the change in interpretation and enforcement of EMTALA regarding acute psychiatric admissions for private psychiatric hospitals and inpatient psychiatric units in acute general hospitals. The expectation is that individuals will be admitted to these facilities without regard to ability to pay.

*A participating hospital that has specialized capabilities or facilities (such as psychiatric hospitals) **SHALL NOT** refuse to accept an **appropriate** transfer of an individual (from a hospital in the United States) who requires such specialized capabilities or facilities **IF** the hospital has the capacity to treat the individual. 42 CFR §489.24(f). This provision applies to any participating hospital (those that accept Medicare and thus Medicaid) regardless of whether the hospital has a dedicated emergency department ("ED") §489.24(f)(i)*

Transfer requests for long-term mental health inpatient treatment from inpatient psychiatric units from the following jurisdictions: *Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Calvert County, Charles County, Harford County, St. Mary's County* are to be referred to **Spring Grove Hospital Center's** admissions' coordinator at **410-402-7398**.

Transfer requests for long-term mental health inpatient treatment from inpatient psychiatric units from the following jurisdictions: *Carroll County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince Georges County* are to be referred to **Springfield Hospital Center's** admissions' coordinator at **410-970-7240**.

For counties on the Eastern Shore, requests for long term mental health inpatient treatment from inpatient psychiatric units from are to be directed to Eastern Shore Hospital Center at 410-221-2300.

~~For counties in Western Maryland requests for long term mental health inpatient treatment from inpatient psychiatric units from are to be directed to Finan Center at 301-777-2405.~~

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Gayle Jordan-Randolph, Clinical Director at 410-402-8300. Thank you.

CC: Lissa Abrams
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